

IN HONOR OF THE OBSERVER-
REPORTER'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY**HON. JOHN P. MURTHA**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, on August 15 of this year, the Observer-Reporter will celebrate its 200th anniversary of providing accurate and reliable news to the people of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

In 1808, printers William Sample and William B. Brown were on their way to Kentucky when they stopped in The Sign of the Swan Tavern in the small village of Washington, Pennsylvania. There, they were convinced to set up shop, and on August 15, 1808, The Reporter, a weekly newspaper, was born. Ownership of the paper, as well as its name, changed hands over the next century, until John L. (Jack) Stewart and George E. Acheson formed the Observer Publishing Company on July 24, 1902.

Acheson retired in 1912, turning over ownership and the presidency to Stewart. When Stewart died in 1940, the company was turned over to his wife, Margaretta. Her grandsons John L.S. and William B. Northrop became co-owners and president and vice president, respectively, following her death in May 1966.

In 1967, the Observer Publishing Company merged its morning paper, The Washington Observer, and its afternoon paper, The Washington Reporter, into the Observer-Reporter.

Over the last three decades, the Observer Publishing Company acquired additional newspapers throughout Washington and Greene Counties. On April 17, 2000, John and Bill Northrop's sons, Tom and Bill Jr., became co-publishers of the company. Tom became sole publisher and president of the Observer Publishing Company in 2004.

Madam Speaker, today the Observer Publishing Company is one of the largest employers in Washington County. Their talented and hardworking staff produces a daily paper that reaches tens-of-thousands of subscribers in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The company is active in both the local community and the newspaper industry. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the award-winning Observer-Reporter for printing a quality news product that has been part of Southwestern Pennsylvania since 1808.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons on Tuesday July 29, 2008 I missed rollcall votes 534, 535, and 536. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ANDERSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Culinary Federation 2008 Central Region Educator of the Year, Robert Anderson of Des Moines Area Community College.

Robert is the program chair of the Culinary Arts and Hospitality Careers program and Executive Chef at DMACC. He is a certified executive chef and certified culinary educator. Robert is a member of the Honorary Order of the Golden Toque, one of only 99 such chefs in the United States. Robert trained at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) and worked in several quality restaurants across the country before joining DMACC to develop the culinary program in 1974. Robert was also selected as DMACC's Distinguished Teacher of the Year in 2000 and is a two-time recipient of the ACF Greater Des Moines Culinary Association Chef of the Year Award.

I consider it a great honor to represent Robert Anderson in the United States Congress. The expertise he brings to Central Iowa is certainly valued and I wish Robert the best as he continues serving Iowa and DMACC in the culinary profession.

HONORING THE CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY OF SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Christ Child Society of South Bend, an all-volunteer organization that has served the community for over 60 years. In 1947, a group of women gathered in the home of founder Puddy Crowley to make baby clothes for a few needy families. Since then, the Christ Child Society has grown to a membership of over 500 and a client list of over 4,000 at-risk children and is one of the largest and most active of the 41 chapters in the United States.

The South Bend chapter is an affiliate of the National Christ Child Society, founded in 1887 by Mary Virginia Merrick in Washington, DC. An invalid, Miss Merrick turned her attention from her disability to helping the poor children of Washington. For her selfless work she received the Laetare Medal from the University of Notre Dame and the Papal Cross, among other honors, and has been declared a "Servant of God," the first step toward canonization.

Following the model of Miss Merrick, the South Bend Chapter gives infants, born to needy mothers who are often just children themselves, a bountiful layette containing items such as blankets, clothing and baby items. Children, ages one through twelve, are referred by local agencies, churches, or schools to receive new winter clothing. Each child receives a wardrobe which includes a winter coat, hat, mittens, underwear, socks and shoes, and two outfits.

The Christ Child Society expanded its services to include a project that provides

backpacks containing necessities and comfort items for children removed from homes due to abuse and neglect. Volunteers from the Christ Child Society are tutors and mentors and act as classroom helpers at one of the neediest schools in South Bend.

The increased need for clothing and the expansion of services led the Christ Child Society to move to its new location, a former school which has been filled to capacity with children's clothing. The dedication of the new clothing center marks a new chapter in the history of this vital and compassionate organization.

The Christ Child motto is "Challenging poverty, one child at a time." The dedicated members work tirelessly at purchasing, sorting, and distributing clothes and fundraising while demonstrating genuine love and concern for the children they serve. The self-esteem and joy brought to the children is one step out of the cycle of poverty.

So, today, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, I honor the members of the Christ Child Society of South Bend and extend my hope for a better life to the children they serve.

CONGRATULATING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of the House Fellows Program. As an initiative of the Office of the Historian, this program is a unique opportunity for a select group of secondary education teachers of American history and government to experience firsthand how Congress really works. They were chosen because they are educators with demonstrated excellence in the classroom.

One of the goals of the program is to develop curricular materials on the history and practice of the House for use in schools. Each Fellow will prepare his or her brief lesson plan on a Congressional topic of their choosing, and these plans will become part of a teaching resource database on the House. During the school year following their participation in the House Fellows Program, each Fellow will have the responsibility to present their experiences and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for teachers of history and government.

Since the House Fellows Program beginning in 2006, 49 teachers from around the country have participated in this innovative program. With plans to select a teacher from every congressional district over the next several years, the House Fellows Program will be able to impact thousands of high school teachers and their students, providing an inside account of how the House of Representatives functions, energizing thousands of students to become informed and active citizens. As a former teacher, I know that civic education is essential. We must continue our efforts to get our young people involved in the political process, not only in my congressional district but in districts across the country. Educating teachers about the "People's House" is one of the best ways to do that.